

Serial No.: 10/681,096

Docket No.: F-43(ISZ)/MS(414000224US)

ONO.019

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

1. (Currently amended) A fluid coupling, comprising:

a pump having comprising a pump shell, and a plurality of impellers arranged in said pump shell;

a turbine having comprising a turbine shell, arranged to be opposed to said pump, and a plurality of runners arranged in said turbine shell, said turbine shell and said pump shell cooperating to define a fluid circulation passage; and

a baffle mechanism arranged in a the fluid circulation passage; wherein: formed by said pump shell and said turbine shell; wherein

said baffle mechanism comprises a first annular baffle plate that has a plurality of first openings in the circumferential direction thereof and that is constituted integrally with said pump or with said turbine, a second annular baffle plate that has a plurality of second openings in the circumferential direction thereof and that is disposed in such a manner as to overlap with said first baffle plate and as to be allowed to rotate-rotatable relative thereto, and a centrifugal operation means-device for turning-rotating said second baffle plate relative to said first baffle plate in response to the rotational speed of said first baffle plate; and

said centrifugal operation means-device brings said second baffle plate, relative to said first baffle plate, to such a position that the amount of overlapping of said-the first openings and said-the second openings decreases when the rotational speed of said first baffle plate is low, and turns said second baffle plate relative to said first baffle plate so as to increase the amount of overlapping of said-the first openings and said-the second openings when the rotational speed of said first baffle plate increases; and

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said centrifugal operation device comprises a first set of elongated holes and a second set of elongated holes formed respectively in said first baffle plate and said second baffle plate in the directions of diameters thereof, weight members inserted through the first set of elongated holes and in the second set of elongated holes, and a resilient urging device for urging said second baffle plate to be turned in a predetermined direction relative to said first baffle plate, at least one set of the first set of elongated holes and the second set of elongated holes being tilted with respect to straight lines in the radial direction passing through the center thereof.

2. (Canceled)